

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1917.

Territorial Market Management

Editor Star-Bulletin,
City.

Dear Sir: Will you be so kind as to insert the following letter in your paper under the title of "Letters On Timely Topics."

I have been a customer of the Territorial Market Division for the past two years. I felt like many others in Honolulu that I was only performing a sort of duty by dealing there. In spite of the fact that I am considered patient enough to put up with most anything, I am getting disgusted with the poor service customers get when they deal there. The service at the meat counter is, and has been for long time past, the poorest of any place in town, and I believe that the only inducement for anyone to return the second time, is the fact that meats are sold cheaper, there than anywhere else, or at least anywhere that I have been able to find. And when you go to the vegetable department, you are confronted by an unclean appearing lad in knee pants, who does not seem to have the ambition much less the ability to answer intelligently any questions about fruits or vegetables any housewife would want to know.

It seems a pity that the Territorial Market cannot or will not furnish better help to wait on their customers in better manner, even if it necessitates paying them more money.

A CUSTOMER.

Honolulu, Oct. 18, 1917.

The comment of this correspondent deserves special attention. The observation of this paper is that it voices a community sentiment.

The Territorial Market comes under the head of "those things that ought to be but ain't." A good number of people in this town are more than favorably disposed toward the Territorial Market. They have gone out of their way to patronize this market because it is looked upon as an outlet for the product of the small farmer. And many people wish to do what they can to help the so-called "small man."

But the market lacks management. It is practically speaking in about the same position as the municipal government of Honolulu; it has the same faulty management, and although great effort may be put forth to overcome this difficulty, the desired results are not in evidence.

To be entirely fair one should realize that this market has many exceptional problems to face. It is not popular with interests whose profits might possibly be reduced by a successful public market. It is working in a new field. It may not have the amount of money necessary to do the work expected.

All sorts of boulders could be discovered in the pathway of this institution, but everyone of them is another point in proof of the fact that the market needs management. No privately controlled business has ever been built up without a struggle; government controlled business cannot expect an easier pathway.

The quickest means of killing off a private business is to put a department in charge of a man or boy who doesn't know his business, and to all appearances has never been schooled in the work to be done. The persons in control are responsible if the ignorance and poor service continues.

Between the board of agriculture and the food commission it should be possible to develop a line of action, business management, that will put the Territorial Market in the list of places where the people can secure service. That will bring the trade and the small farmer will get his share.

ONLY ONE PEACE MESSAGE.

In the schemes of peace that will settle the issues now being fought out in France and Belgium and elsewhere on the battle lines of Europe, there can be only one that will give the final word guaranteeing the peace of the world—unconditional surrender for the Kaiser's central powers.

There are details in the peace suggestions coming from the council of soldiers and workmen of Russia which indicate that the German conspirators are very active in Russia. It is not surprising that the people making up this council are unable to appreciate that by advocating a return to conditions existing before the war and the return to Germany of its colonies, they are playing into the hands of their enemy. They are not experienced in world politics, and they have been through enough in the last year to warp the viewpoint of most anyone.

The reason for Germany's anxiety to make peace at this time is obvious. When the proposals from Russia are discussed in the conference of Paris, the men of vision and judgment will understand that the only message to be sent the enemy at this time is a notification that we have just begun to fight, and German surrender will be considered at any time.

That Germany is fairly well sewed up by the Entente blockade is indicated by the news that she is "manufacturing" a new food for her people. It seems also that both the U-boat and the Zeppelin are falling much below Hun expectations.

With the formulation of terms of peace by the council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates, for submission to the Entente conference in Paris, all immediate danger of Russia making a separate peace may be considered past.

So far the soldier is ahead of the civilian in Hawaii, in proportion to numbers, on the Liberty Loan business.

War Bonds and Civilians

American citizens in the United States army stationed on this island have subscribed to practically a million dollars of Liberty Bonds.

These boys have not only offered their lives to their country, but they are also putting their money behind the project.

It is a fair question to ask the civilian population of this island what it has done that will come near to equaling the showing made by the men of the army.

How many of the men getting over thirty dollars a month—that is the minimum of the army salary—are putting ten per cent or any per cent of their surplus into the war bonds?

Remember the message that came from the front that the best news the men in the trenches can have is that the folks back home are backing them up at every point in the game.

Now Mr. Reader, well-to-do and hard-working reader, what have you done to make your share come up to the standard set by the army?

It is the bonds you personally subscribe for that count.

LIBERTY LOAN CALLS YOU.

Out of the sixteenth century comes an appeal for the Liberty Loan:

The speech made by the Prince of Orange in 1565 when the Netherlands confederacy was threatened by Philip II of Spain as the world is periled today by Emperor William of Germany, is as direct an appeal today to the nation for funds to carry on the war as any that can be made in this twentieth century.

The Prince of Orange in 1565 said: "Let not a sum of gold be so dear to you, that for its sake you will sacrifice your lives, your wives, your children and all your descendants to the latest generations; that you will bring sin and shame upon yourselves, and destruction upon us who have so heartily striven to assist you. Think what you will incur from foreign nations, what a crime you will commit against the Lord God, what a bloody yoke you will impose forever upon yourselves and your children if you now seek for subterfuges; if you now prevent us from taking the field with the troops which we have enlisted. On the other hand, what inexpressible benefits you will confer on your country, if you now help us to rescue that fatherland from the power of our enemies."

Mr. Hoover announces that lower prices for foodstuffs may be expected in consequence of large crop increases. Lower first cost of certain staples in Honolulu does not appear to have any effect on prices to consumers of products in which such staples are elements. On the contrary, there has just been proclaimed a raise in milk along with a drop in the prices of several kinds of feed for dairy stock. In the 15 days prior to October 12, for instance, corn fell \$2.50 to \$5 a ton, barley \$2 to \$2.50, midlings from \$65 to \$64.65, alfalfa hay \$2. Bran in the same period went up \$2.50 to \$5 a ton and wheat hay \$1 to \$3. Along with these two exceptions may be noted a decline in scratch feed of \$4 a ton and oats unchanged—the whole exhibit indicating a general tendency to lower cost of all animal feeds. Yet, besides the raise in milk, poultry and eggs have gone up—young roosters 0 to 3 cents a pound, hens 2 cents, select eggs 7 1/2 cents a dozen and No. 1 eggs 8 cents.

Evidently the news collector feeding the wireless for the local press thought it would "astonish the natives" to hear of the looting of an Illinois country store by burglars in an automobile. An article in a weekly magazine arriving the previous day by mail, however, had robbed the item of its bloom. It showed that auto-banditry is a widespread affliction on mainland communities. Yet, as novelty in devilry is just as contagious as it is in clothes, it might be well for people here to be prepared for giving a warm reception to auto-traveling thieves.

Thousands of Irish heroes fighting to deliver the world from Prussian aggression are giving the only response that is needed to Teuton attempts, before and since the United States entered the war, to use a few Irishmen in America as catspaws for pulling Hohenzollern chestnuts out of the fire.

Men of Honolulu, is it your ambition and determination to make this a clean progressive city, or would you leave it to sink in a bog hole of vice?

When job-hunting is placed under restrictions like peddling and "panhandling," there will be less burglarizing and sneak-thieving in the residence sections. Now when a man is found loitering at the back of a house, or maneuvering under the windows, his usual reply to a challenge is the whining question, "You want boy work yard?"

Again are Americans reminded that it is a fight and a fight to a finish. The answer to the challenge is more fighting power at home and abroad. Take another bond.

There is work waiting for prowling alien enemies of the Koessler stamp in the government quarries and parks.

Most everything has increased except the size of a dollar and the waist measurement of the rookie.

"More rum for the fiddler"—the French poilu is to have his wine ration increased.

Cuba is doing its bit in cheerful cooperation with his country in sugar contro

Letters on TIMELY TOPICS

McMAHON AND HIS FISH

Editor Star-Bulletin.

Sir: With pleasure I notice the glow of the merry fire of discussion in your columns and in those of the Advertiser which I chance to kindle recently through my remarks in your paper on the inflated price of fish; but today I received further illumination on the subject, which explains the mystery completely, in a typewritten letter to myself from a brave correspondent, who secreted himself entirely under the name of plume of "A Non-Sucker." As some of his elucidations are shrouded in a mental fog I submit the letter to your comprehensive editorial mind for interpretation and publication if you think it will enlighten the public on this distressing and momentous question of the soaring price of fish, which makes all of us poor people feel pretty sore indeed.

However, my fishy correspondent is not at all polite, opening his letter by tabulating me as "a damn fool," saying he is going to ask me a few "kindergarten questions," which may be "too broad" for my "narrow mind." And because he did it, too, fairly howling at me as he deluged me with questions, mixed with bum grammar and spelling, which disclosed him to my Hawkshaw mind as a Honolulu-educated Chinaman with a strong financial interest in the fish-bussing business and a great fear in his heart that he is not going to make so much easy money in the near future as he is making now. He seems to think I am trying to shield the sugar planters and sugar stockholders in their joyous desire to get rich quick, asking why I don't "sic" the food commission onto them, thinking perhaps I like to pay 10c a pound for sugar for my "tay." Oh, I do, just about as much as paying 25c a pound or more for fish. I fairly gloat over every spoonful I put in the cup, thinking how precious it is and how aristocratic it feels to be living so high! I assure my self-satisfied, ignorant (and that's about the greatest and most prevalent crime of all on the moral calendar) friend that I have a very strong adverse opinion of all the brave optimistic gang of exploiters, those patriots for plunder, who have been instrumental in increasing the prices of every necessity of life in the United States and abroad, since the commencement of this unfortunate war in which we now have entered, and in which the superficial thinking people of the world will learn lessons of wisdom I feel that will aid them in being less imposed upon in the future.

My correspondent I also put in that category, though he has me fairly "buffaloed" as to what he means by the occult sentence with which he winds up his dissertation: "Why don't you bark at the right direction?" It is vague and suspicious to me, to say the least, but I will rise to the occasion, by hiving, and the piper that played before Moses, and if I can but once lay my eyes upon it I'll buy a file, sharpen my teeth, live on broiled bones, raw squid and vinegar for a week, drink malaga wine and go for it! And as for the sugar planters and every mother's son who owns an ounce of sugar stocks, I'll go for them, too, and if they don't quit raising the limit on sugar I'll write them a "poem," then see how they'll quake in their new \$14 Broadway patent leathers, capitulate and surrender at the same time, as they are both so much like one another, ask my pardon and perhaps give me a job at \$300 a month for having mercy on them—and not write them any more poems!

Please forgive me, Mr. Editor, for this burst of indignant eloquence and imposition upon you and your space; the blissful thought of fish coming down to earth again, metaphorically babbling, was the cause of it. Sincerely yours for cheap fish,

P. MAURICE McMAHON.
Honolulu, Oct. 11, 1917.

The anonymous comment sent to Mr. McMahon on the fish question follows:

Honolulu, T. H., Oct. 8, 1917.
Since you have shown yourself to be such a damn fool by writing such a letter as appeared in the Star-Bulletin on October 5, I am going to ask you a few kindergarten questions in connection with the high cost of living.

Haven't you felt or don't you know that everything has gone up all the way from 10 to 100 per cent and in many cases over the latter figure? This question may be a little too broad for your narrow mind, so will specify a few local articles:

Haven't the prices of meat and pork gone up 50 per cent or more?
Haven't the prices of poultry and eggs gone up 50 per cent or more?
Haven't the prices of milk and butter gone up 50 per cent or more?
Haven't the prices of bread and pastry gone up 50 per cent or more?

Haven't the price of rice gone up 50 per cent or more?

Haven't the price of poi gone up 50 per cent or more?
Haven't the price of sugar gone up 50 per cent or more since 1914, and are you getting the benefit of the freight charges, etc., between here and New York City, or are you paying the same price for sugar here as they are paying in the city of New York?

Are you going to ask, "Why don't the planters here sell sugar in Honolulu at New York prices less the freight charges, handling, insurance, etc.?"

With all the articles named sugar is the one that is required by each and every family three times a day.

If all the above articles have gone up, then why shouldn't the price of fish go up 50 per cent or more? If it did, it is only in line with the others.

From your letter you seem to want those Chinamen at the market to sell fish to the "poor Hawaiians with a large family" at actual cost. If that is done, then who is going to sell the necessities of life to those "poor Chinamen with large families to support" at cost? Where can a poor Hawaiian or poor Chinaman or any other poor man buy sugar at a reasonable profit over the cost of production? Sugar costs \$2.50 per 100 pounds to produce and sold as high as 10 cents a pound. Do you call that justice to the poor people in view of the fact that they must have it and have it three times a day? Why don't you ask your food commission to look into this first instead of the fish question? You cannot answer these questions frankly. Look at the enormous dividends that is being distributed by the planters monthly. Where is that money from? The sugar consumers, of course. Then who are the consumers? You, your family and all the poor Hawaiians and their families.

You suckers are always clamoring because you are forced to buy fish at a slight increase in price—having in mind the idea that the Orientals are going to decide an extra dividend of so many millions at the end of the month. Why don't you bark at the right direction?

A NON-SUCKER.

CHURCH ROW TO BE SETTLED, IS BELIEF OF SOME

The Kawaiahae church row is now at a standstill, but it is expected that the trouble will be definitely settled as soon as the Parker-Kamanouli factions can arrange a meeting.

At a meeting of the members of the church last Monday night, a special committee consisting of John K. Kamanouli, E. K. Kaban and Iola Kikahi was appointed and authorized to call on Rev. H. H. Parker, Rev. Parker says that he would be pleased to meet the committee as soon as possible. Other than this he declines to discuss the church row.

Kamanouli said this morning that as soon as the members of the committee get together they will call on the veteran pastor with a view of settling the trouble which has caused a breach in the congregation.

The Kawaiahae church property is one of the most valuable in the territory. It was worth \$71,644.14 on September 30, 1917, according to the treasurer's report.

One of the recent sales of the church property took place several months ago, when the burial grounds directly mauka of the Moana hotel, Waikiki, were sold to the Territorial Hotel Co.

PERSONALITIES

SAMUEL K. MOOKINI, a teacher at the Lahainauna, Maui, school, is a visitor in Honolulu today. He says the institution is somewhat handicapped by lack of instructors.

FRANK J. DOUGHERTY has been commissioned captain in the officers' reserve corps and has resigned as captain in the national guard. He has had a fund of valuable experience in army work, having been connected with the civilian staff of the army for 17 years.

A new American record for small arms in the Coast Artillery corps was made on Saturday by the 1st Co., C. A. C. when 68 marksmen were recorded. The previous record was 65. Ninety-three men fired over the course at Fort Kamehameha and seven are yet to take their places on the range to complete the work.

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VITAL STATISTICS

BORN.

KAPENA—In Honolulu, October 20, 1917, to Mr. and Mrs. John Kapena, of 222 Punchbowl street, a daughter.

DIED.

KEAWAPOO—In Honolulu, October 20, 1917, David Keawepoo, Jr., of 903 Kanoa road, married, laborer, a native of this city.

KAPENA—In Honolulu, October 20, 1917, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kapena, of 222 Punchbowl street, a native of this city.

ERBES—At the Boretania Sanatorium, Honolulu, October 19, 1917, Mrs. Mary McCabe Erbes of Pacific Heights, nurse, a native of Kailua, Oahu, aged thirty-six years, four months and twenty-two days.

KAWAHINE—In Honolulu, October 19, 1917, Ike Kawahine, of Jack lano, Nuanu, widowed, sailor, native of Kau, Hawaii, aged fifty-seven years.

MARRIED.

LIEPSE-LLOYD—In Honolulu, October 18, 1917, Verlin Claude Liepse and Miss Edna Augusta Lloyd, Rev. Father Patrick St. Leger, of the Catholic cathedral, officiating; witnesses—Mr. and Mrs. James W. Lloyd.



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